

Message Text

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06893 301631Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 EURE-00 /147 W

----- 126960

R 291130Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9243

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY THE HAUGE

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

USCINCEUR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 6893

C O R R E C T E D COPY (E.O. 11652: N/A VICE GDS)

DEPARTMENT PASS CAIRO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON BELGIAN AND EC ROLE

IN MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 06893 301631Z

1. SUMMARY. IN STATEMENT TO CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES NOVEMBER 27,
VAN ELSLADE DEFINED BELGIAN MIDDLE EAST POLICY IN TERMS THAT
STRESS CONCERTED EUROPEAN APPROACH, IMPORTANCE OF EUROPEAN ROLE
IN ACHIEVING MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, AND "EQUITABLE" ATTITUDE

TOWARDS PARTIES IN CONFLICT. THRUST OF LATTER POINT IS THAT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORY MUST BE "COMPLETE" BUT MUST ALSO BE PROTECTED BY ADEQUATE INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES UNDER UN AUSPICES. VAN ELSLANDE SPECIFIED THAT THE GOB SHARES THE FRENCH POSITION ON INTERPRETING THE LANGUAGE OF 242 ON WITHDRAWAL.

2. REFERRING TO SISCO VISIT TO BRUSSELS NOVEMBER 13 AND "WITHOUT WISHING TO RAKE UP THE PAST", SAID VAN ELSLANDE, "I TOLD HIM WE REGRETTED BEING SO LITTLE INFORMED OF THE INTENTIONS AND GOALS OF AMERICAN POLICY." BUT, THE FOREIGN MINISTER ADDED, "WE ARE NOW AGREED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CONCERTATION." END SUMMARY.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE ADDRESSED CHAMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES NOVEMBER 27 ON BELGIAN AND EUROPEAN POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST. VAN ELSLANDE AND BELGIAN POLICY IS BASED ON THREE PRINCIPLES:

- TO CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE BY ADOPTING AN "EQUITABLE" ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT.
- TO FAVOR EUROPEAN "CONCERTATION", BECAUSE ONLY A UNITED EUROPE CAN TAKE A REAL PART IN THE RESTORATION OF PEACE.
- TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES AND IN THE PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION.

4. VAN ELSLANDE SAID THAT SC RESOLUTION 242 RETAINS ITS VALIDITY AS THE BASIS FOR A LASTING SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. HE CLARIFIED BELGIUM'S POSITION ON THE WORDING OF THE RESOLUTION IN REGARD TO ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, BY SAYING ISRAEL SHOULD MAKE A COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL, "WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SUCH MINOR ADJUSTMENTS AS MAY BE AGREED ON IN THE COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS." WITHDRAWAL, HOWEVER, CANNOT BE A PRECONDITION FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

5. VAN ELSLANDE STRESSED THAT A MIDDLE EAST SOLUTION MUST INCLUDE INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES TO ASSURE ISRAEL'S SECURITY.
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 06893 301631Z

EUROPEANS SEE THESE GUARANTEES AS COMING UNDER SECURITY COUNCIL AUSPICES, WITH UN TROOPS STATIONED IN DEMILITARIZED ZONES AND NOT SUBJECT TO UNILATERAL ORDER FROM EITHER SIDE TO WITHDRAW.

6. REVIEWING BELGIAN INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS DURING THE MIDDLE EAST WAR, VAN ELSLANDE SAID BELGIUM "HALTED ITS ARMS EXPORTS TO THE REGION AND HAS WATCHED OVER (VIELLE) A STRICT APPLICATION OF THIS RULE BOTH WITH REGARD TO BELGIAN EXPORTATION AND TRANSIT ACROSS BELGIUM." THIS DECISION, HE ADDED, "IS SUBJECT TO REVIEW OR PROGRESSIVE ADJUSTMENT IN RELATIONS TO THE EVOLUTION OF THE SITUATION AND PROGRESS ON THE PATH TO PEACE."

7. HE CHIDED THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

FOR BLOCKING A EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN UNEF, NOTING MOSCOW'S "RETICENT ATTITUDE" TOWARDS A TRULY EUROPEAN INITIATIVE EVEN THOUGH IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A "EUROPEAN" AND NOT A NATO PROJECT.

8. ALTHOUGH THE US AND THE USSR HAVE A PARTICULAR ROLE TO PLAY BASED ON THEIR POWER AND THEIR EARLIER COMMITMENTS IN THE REGION, "IT IS INDESPENSABLE THAT OTHER COUNTRIES TAKE PART IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE, BECAUSE NO TWO COUNTRIES HOWEVER POWERFUL CAN SUBSTITUTE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND EXPECT TO DECIDE (THE ISSUE OF) PEACE OR WAR".

9. VAN ELSLANDE THEN OFFERED AN EMPHATIC DEFENSE OF THE EC-9 DECLARATION OF NOVEMBER 6, ADMITTEDLY NOW OVERTAKEN BY SUCH NEW DEVELOPMZNTS AS THE EGYPTIAN/ISRAELI "AGREEMENT OF KILOMETER 101" FOR WHICH BELGIUM PAYS HOMAGE TO SECRETARY KISSINGER.

10. STRESSING THE INDISPENSABILITY OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL BACKING OF PEACE ARRANGEMENTS, VAN ELSLANDE SAID UNSC IS ONLY ORGANIZATION CAPABLE OF ENGAGING INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY BEHIND OBLIGATIONS. "THERE MUST BE A LINK, THEREFORE, BETWEEN THIS NEGOTIATION AND THE UN; THIS DOES NOT EXCLUDE THE AUSPICES OF THE SUPER-POWERS, SO LONG AS THAT DOES NOT EXCLUDE THE REST OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND, PARTICULARLY, EUROPE".

11. "WE HAD OCCASION TO MAKE THIS POINT TO MR. SISCO WHEN HE VISITED BELGIUM. WE HOPE HE UNDERSTOOD THAT GIVEN THE POSITIVE ROLE THAT EUROPE WANTS TO PLAY, IS NOT APPROPRIATE TO KEEP UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BRUSSE 06893 301631Z

EUROPE AWAY FROM THE DIFFERENT PHASES OF THE NEGOTIATION ABOUT TO BEGIN."

12. VAN ELSLANDE THEN SAID THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM WAS CENTRAL TO THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT AND THAT THOUGHT HAD TO BE GIVEN TO THE NATURE OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS, THEIR REPRESENTATION AT THE PEACE TALKS, AND THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA IN WHICH THEIR RIGHTS MUST BE EXERCISED. "WE SEE NO CONTRADICTION BETWEEN RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIANS AND GUARANTEEING THE INDEPENDENCE AND VIABILITY OF ISRAEL."

13. REGARDING THE IRRAELI INTERPRETATION OF THE EC-9 DECLARATION, "WE REFUSE TO ENTER INTO POLEMICS WITH ISRAEL AHD HOPE TO PURSUE A TRUE DIALOGUE WITH THAT STATE IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE."

14. "WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN A DIPLOMATIC ACTION WITH THE ARABS TO DEMONSTRATE TO THEM THAT A TRUE COOPERATION WITH EUROPE IMPLIES THAT THEY RECOGNIZE OUR UNITY AS WE RESPECT THEIRS."

15. REFERRING TO THE INDISPENSIBILITY OF COOPERATION BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE US ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND UNDER SECRETARY SISCO'S VISIT OF NOVEMBER 13, VAN ELSLANDE SAID "WITHOUT WISHING TO RAKE OVER THE PAST, I TOLD HIM WE REGRETTED BEING

SO LITTLE INFORMED ABOUT THE INTENTIONS AND GOALS OF AMERICAN
POLICY... AND WE AGREED THAT A "CONCERTATION" WAS IN THE INTEREST
OF BOTH PARTIES."

16. COMMENT. BELGIAN POSITION ON WITHDRAWAL REMAINS UNCHANGED
SINCE 1971 BUT VIGOROUS AFFIRMATION IS NEW. BELGIAN PRESS
COVERAGE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S PRESENTATION HAS RANGED
EVENLY OVER SEVERAL THEMES:

-- PRESENTATION TILTS IN PRO-ARAB DIRECTION AS EXEMPLIFIED
BY FOREIGN MINISTER'S EMPHASIS ON BELGIAN ACCEPTANCE OF
INTERPRETATION THAT ISRAEL SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM "THE" OCCUPIED
ARAB TERRITORIES:

-- DECLARATION WAS DELIVERED TO A PARTICULARLY THIN HOUSE
WITH FEWER THAN THIRTY DEPUTIES PRESENT OUT OF 212:

-- US AND SOVIET REACTIONS TO BELGIAN AND EUROPEAN
ASPIRATIONS REMAIN TO BE SEEN. BOOCHEVER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO. UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 BRUSSE 06893 301631Z

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BRUSSE06893
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731166/abqceejg.tel
Line Count: 186
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Aug-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <20-Aug-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON BELGIAN AND EC ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, XF, BE
To: STATE INFO BONN
COPENHAGEN
DUBLIN
LONDON
LUXEMBOURG
MOSCOW
OSLO

OTTAWA
PARIS
ROME
TEL AVIV
THE HAUGE
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
USCINCEUR
NATO
EC BRUSSELS
GENEVA
USUN N Y

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005